Subsidy for coconut oil distribution through PDS in Kerala

1746. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has subsidised palmolien distributed through the PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala has requested to give similar subsidy for the coconut oil distributed through the ration shops/PDS in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The Government of India had implemented a 'Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs' during 2008-09 with a subsidy of Rs.15/- per kg till January 2009 and thereafter Rs. 25/- per kg of imported edible oil handed over to the States for distribution under the Scheme. About 2.61 lakh tons of packed edible oils (refined palmolein and refined soyabean oil) had been handed over to 12 States under the Scheme. The Scheme ended on 31.3.2009. The Scheme has been extended in August 2009 for the current year upto 31.3.2010. The extended Scheme envisages the import of upto 10 lakh tons of edible oils by designated PSUs, NAFED and National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF) with a subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg of edible oils handed over to States for distribution. The States are free to distribute the packed edible oils through any outlet of their choice. Till 27.11.2009, about 1.04 lakh tons of edible oils have been contracted and about 51,366 tons handed over to States participating in the Scheme.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of Kerala, *vide* its letters dated 29.3.2008, 23.6.2009 and 25.6.2009 had requested that the subsidy given under the above Scheme may be allowed for coconut oil. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, *vide* his D.O. Letter dated 12.8.2008, had also requested to extend the subsidy of Rs. 15/- per kg for distribution of coconut oil through the Public Distribution System of Kerala.

The Government of Kerala had been informed that the subsidy under the 'Scheme for distribution of subsidised imported edible oils through States/UTs' is restricted to edible oils imported by PSUs and supplied to the States/UTs for distribution with a view to increase domestic availability and keep domestic prices under control and that the Scheme had no provision to subsidise domestic oils.

Joint programmes of foreign and Indian technological universities

1747. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal under consideration of Government to allow foreign technological universities and institutes to collaborate with Indian universities and institutes to conduct joint programmes;